

IN THE CLAIMS:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:

a transmission;

a push rod assembly which is driven by said transmission and comprises a push rod;

an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly;

compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is driven into a compression relationship with the contact member, and wherein said push rod has a first end received by said jaw with said jaw being compliance adjustable relative to said first end.

Claim 2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliance means includes a compliance spring.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 2 wherein said push rod assembly comprises ~~a rod~~ and a reception sleeve receiving said rod and said reception sleeve being biased by said compliance spring which is in a reception relationship with said rod.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [4] 3 wherein said rod further comprises an expanded jaw end which restricts movement of said rod relative to at least one of said jaw and reception sleeve.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 5 wherein said expanded jaw end of said rod is received within a cavity defined by said jaw.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said transmission ~~means~~ includes a cam.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 7 wherein said transmission ~~means~~ further including a roller which is in engagement with said cam and in driving communication with said push rod assembly.

Claim 9. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 wherein said roller is positioned at one end of said push rod assembly.

Claim 10. (Original) The assembly of claim 8 wherein said roller rides along an outer, peripheral edge of said cam.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 8 further comprising a roller [bi] [as] bias spring which is positioned so as to bias said roller into engagement with said cam.

Claim 12. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliance means includes a first and a second spring positioned at said push rod assembly.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:
a transmission;
a push rod assembly which is driven by said transmission;
an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly;
compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is driven into a compression relationship with the contact member, wherein said compliance means includes a first and a second spring positioned at said push rod assembly, and ~~The assembly of claim 12~~ wherein said first and second springs have a different spring constant value.

Claim 14. (Original) The assembly of claim 13 wherein said first spring is positioned to bias said jaw toward the contact member and said second spring is positioned so as to bias said rod toward said transmission, and said first spring is of a higher spring constant than said second spring.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:
a transmission;
a push rod assembly which is driven by said transmission;
an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly;
compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is driven
into a compression relationship with the contact member, wherein said compliance means
includes a first and a second spring positioned at said push rod assembly, and ~~The assembly of~~
~~claim 12~~ wherein said first spring is positioned to bias said jaw toward the contact member and
said second spring is positioned so as to bias said rod toward said transmission.

Claim 16. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliance means includes
a push rod assembly position restrictor device having an interior contact portion for a guided
non-axial position retention of said push rod assembly.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:
a transmission;
a push rod assembly which is driven by said transmission;
an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod assembly;
compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is driven
into a compression relationship with the contact member, wherein said compliance means
includes a push rod assembly position restrictor device having an interior contact portion for a
guided non-axial position retention of said push rod assembly, and ~~The assembly of claim 16~~
wherein said push rod assembly position restrictor device is a casing that is fixed in position
relative to a sealer frame structure, and said rod is received within said casing and in
communication with said biasing device such that said rod is adjustable relative to said casing.

Claim 18. (Original) The assembly of claim 17 further comprising a slide sleeve slidingly received within said casing, and wherein said biasing device exerts a biasing force against said slide sleeve.

Claim 19. (Original) The assembly of claim 18 wherein said compliance means includes a second biasing device positioned between an expanded portion of said rod assembly and said casing.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 1 further comprising a second jaw as said contact member and a heat element supported by said second jaw.

Claim 21. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 further comprising a casing receiving said push rod assembly and wherein said push rod assembly includes a pair of rods in engagement with respective opposite ends of said jaw, and each of said push rods being axially adjustable relative to one of said jaw or a housing receiving said push rod assembly.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:
a sealer compression jaw;
a rod assembly in driving engagement with said jaw, and said rod assembly having an adjustable engagement with said jaw;
a cam member in driving engagement with said rod assembly; and
a compliance bias spring, and wherein the driving engagement between said rod assembly and said jaw includes a rod extension slidingly received by said jaw and said jaw being biased away from said cam member by said compliance bias spring.

Claim 23. (Canceled)

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [23] 22 further comprising a casing which receives said push rod assembly;

and a second biasing spring, and wherein said push rod assembly includes a second bias spring contact section, and said second biasing spring being in a biasing relationship between said casing and the second bias spring contact section of said of said push rod assembly.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) An end sealer shifting assembly, comprising:
a sealer compression jaw;
a rod assembly in driving engagement with said jaw, and said rod assembly having an
adjustable engagement with said jaw;
a cam member in driving engagement with said rod assembly; and

~~The assembly of claim 23~~ wherein said jaw comprises a block having a heater wire compression surface and a rod reception component which slidingly receives an end of said rod.

Claim 26. (Original) The assembly of claim 22 further comprising a housing block and wherein said push rod assembly includes a slide rod, which is slidingly received by said housing block.

Claim 27. (Original) The assembly of claim 22 further comprising a push rod assembly position restrictor, and wherein said transmission includes a cam, and wherein said push rod assembly includes a first spring which is preloaded to bias said jaw outward relative to the push rod position restrictor, and a second spring which is designed to bias a transmission engagement end of said push rod assembly toward said cam.

Claim 28. (Original) The assembly of claim 27 wherein said first spring has a higher spring constant than said second spring.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an end sealer shifter assembly, comprising:
providing a transmission;

providing a push rod assembly which is in driving engagement with said transmission;
providing an end seal compression jaw in driving engagement with said push rod
assembly; and

providing compliance means for jaw compliance with a contact member when said jaw is
driven into a compression relationship with the contact member, and wherein said jaw comprises
a block having a heater wire compression surface.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) A method of forming an end seal in a bag dispensing
system using the end sealer shifting assembly of claim 1, comprising:

feeding bag material between a first jaw representing said end seal compression jaw and a
second jaw representing said contact member;

providing foam precursor to said bag being formed;

moving a first of said first and second jaws toward an opposite one of said first and
second jaws to place in contact with the bag material an end seal element; and

with said compliance means allowing said moving jaw to conform to any variations in
relative jaw-to-jaw flush contact when said first and second jaws are placed in an end seal
forming relationship.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein said jaw comprises a rod reception
component which slidingly receives an end of said rod.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said end of said rod includes an expanded
portion which is received within a cavity formed in said jaw.

33. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said compliance means includes a pair of
nested springs.

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/776,453

34. (New) The assembly of claim 17 wherein said compliance means includes first and second springs in a nested arrangement.

35. (New) The assembly of claim 27 wherein said first and second springs are in a nested arrangement.